

THE LESTER FAMILY

The first ancestor of our name and family in America, of whom we have definite record, was the Puritan, Andrew Lester (also spelled Leycester, Leister, Lister) who appeared at Gloucester, Mass. where his first child was born in 1642, and where he was admitted as a freeman in the Mass. Bay Colon, and appointed constable Jan. 7, 1643, an office at that time of importance. He sold his property in 1651 and left town with the company that went to Pequod (New London).

ANDREW (1) LESTER, married 1st, Barbara who was the mother of his first four children, and who died Feb. 2, 1653-4 at New London, being the first death of a white woman at New London. He married, 1655 2nd, Joanna, the widow of Robert Hemstead, who died in 1659 without issue. He married 3rd in 1661 Anna (Hannah) Brooks-Fox, the daughter of Henry (1) Brooks, and widow of Thomas Fox of Concord, Mass., by whom he had three sons. Our Lester family goes back to Children of both mothers, Andrew of Barbara and Timothy of Anna. Andrew Lester was constable and collector at New London in 1668. He died there June 7th, 1669. Children, by Barbara - Daniel 4/15/1642 m. Hannah, dau. of Thomas Fox, of Concord, Mass; Andrew b. 12/26/1644; Mary b. 12/26/1647; Ann b. 3/24/1651 m. 5/3/1670 Nathaniel Millet. Children of Hannah-Timothy b. 7/4/1662; Joseph 6/15/1664; Benjamin b. 1666 d. 1712, m. Anna Steadman. ~~and died there 1670. He married 4th, 1670, a daughter of Nicholas Clark of Hartford who died about 1676. He married 2nd, Hannah Bradley, dau. of Peter and Elizabeth (Brewster) Bradley, Elizabeth, the mother of Hannah, was the daughter of Jonathan-- son of Elder William Brewster, the leader of the Pilgrims. Hannah Bradley was born Sept. 17, 1656, at New London. The following abstract dated 9/3/1725, identifying Hannah Lester as the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Brewster) Bradley, and as a decendent of Elder William Brewster, has been accepted by the Society of Mayflower decendents: "I, Hannah Lester, of New London, widow, for 10 pounds of Johnathan Bradley of Southold, L.I. sell to him in full all such estate rights etc., that I have, or ought to have in real estate in New London, which was my father's, Peter Bradley, of New London, dec'd." Recorded 11/15/1725. Book 8 folio 285. Andrew Lester was the first deacon of the first church of Groton, Conn. He was representative for eight years in the General Court. He was a sergeant in the New London Military Co in 1704. According to tax records he was the wealthiest man of Groton. He died 1708 and his will was probated at Groton Aug. 20, 1708. Children by 1st wife- Sarah, bap. --- m. Joseph Woodmancy; Andrew, bap. 9/23/1674 m. Lydia Bailey, and 2nd Abigail---, by 2nd wife - Jonathan, bap. 1/19, 1678 at First Chruch of Christ, New London, m. Hannah; Samuel, bap. 6/26, 1686; Hannah, bap. at Stonington 1685, m. at Groton 1708 to James Forsythe.~~
(1644-1708)

ANDREW (2) LESTER, married 1st, a daughter of (Nicholas) Clark (of Hartford who died about 1676. He married 2nd, Hannah Bradley, dau. of Peter and Elizabeth (Brewster) Bradley, Elizabeth, the mother of Hannah, was the daughter of Jonathan-- son of Elder William Brewster, the leader of the Pilgrims. Hannah Bradley was born Sept. 17, 1656, at New London. The following abstract dated 9/3/1725, identifying Hannah Lester as the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Brewster) Bradley, and as a decendent of Elder William Brewster, has been accepted by the Society of Mayflower decendents: "I, Hannah Lester, of New London, widow, for 10 pounds of Johnathan Bradley of Southold, L.I. sell to him in full all such estate rights etc., that I have, or ought to have in real estate in New London, which was my father's, Peter Bradley, of New London, dec'd." Recorded 11/15/1725. Book 8 folio 285. Andrew Lester was the first deacon of the first church of Groton, Conn. He was representative for eight years in the General Court. He was a sergeant in the New London Military Co in 1704. According to tax records he was the wealthiest man of Groton. He died 1708 and his will was probated at Groton Aug. 20, 1708. Children by 1st wife- Sarah, bap. --- m. Joseph Woodmancy; Andrew, bap. 9/23/1674 m. Lydia Bailey, and 2nd Abigail---, by 2nd wife - Jonathan, bap. 1/19, 1678 at First Chruch of Christ, New London, m. Hannah; Samuel, bap. 6/26, 1686; Hannah, bap. at Stonington 1685, m. at Groton 1708 to James Forsythe.

JONATHAN (3) LESTER (b. 1/10/1678 at New London, d 3/4/1711-2. Married Hannah. Lived at Groton. Children Hannah; Jonathan, bap 3/8/1701-2, m. Deborah Allyn; Peter b. 1705 m. 1733, Anna Street.

PETER (4) LESTER, b. about 1705, d. 9/10/1789; m. Aug. 1733, Anna, daughter of Nicholas and Jerusha Morgan Street. Anna was born at Groton 11/24/1710, d. 3/6/1790. Nicholas Street was the son of Rev. Samuel Street, born 1635, a graduate of Harvard College, and Anna, daughter of Richard and Katherine (Constable) Miles. Samuel Street was the son of Nicholas Street, born at Bridgewater, England 1/29/1603, married 2nd, Mary, widow of Gov. Francis Newman, Susanna; Sarah; Abiah. Nicholas Street, of Taunton, England. received his degree at Oxford (B.A.) in 1631 and settled at Taunton, Mass. about 1638. By 1st wife, a Poole, he had Samuel b. 1635.